

SPACE WARFARE CENTER

Schriever Air Force Base

by Mr Gary Sherwood

The Space Warfare Center (SWC), a direct reporting unit assigned to Air Force Space Command, is located on Schriever AFB CO. The SWCs mission is to improve military operations through the integration and adaptation of space capabilities to military forces worldwide.

The SWC was formed after Desert Storm as a result of noted deficiencies in the exploitation of space power. The SWC has an ever-increasing role, which includes the following objectives:

- exploiting space derived information;
- providing space warfare training and education from basic space capabilities to senior officer training;
- analyzing emerging technologies for space capabilities and space warrior application;
- developing models and simulation for play in war games and exercises;
- providing state-of-the-art astrodynamics expertise;
- engaging in Information Warfare (IW) and Command and Control Protection (C2P) efforts; and
- supporting warfighters through testing and evaluation of space and intercontinental ballistic missiles forces.

The SWC is comprised of several units and programs. The Space Battlelab, one of eight Air Force Battlelabs, provides an exploratory arm for space related initiatives. The Air Force Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities Program (TENCAP) is a Congressionally mandated program to improve combat capabilities and effectively leverage space related technologies. AF TENCAP meets three key objectives:

- (1) influencing new national systems design and operation to improve tactical support to the warfighter;
- (2) exploiting existing national and space systems capabilities for warfighter applications; and
- (3) educating and training TENCAP users.

The Analysis and Engineering Branch provides space modeling, simulation and analysis for current and future war games, and exercises. The branch also assesses future technologies, such as the upcoming hyperspectral imaging demonstration for Warfighter-1; conducts analysis to support operational studies, such as integrated investment decisions with ACC; and brings interoperable astrodynamic and operational standards to space operations and the combat Air Force.

The testing and evaluation functions of the SWC are reorganizing this year into the 595th Test and Evaluation Group. The Test Group serves as program manager for all command space and ICBM systems Force Development Evaluations. The Group analyzes and maintains AFSPC accuracy and reliability data for annual single integrated operational plan inputs and integrates test requirements from the Department of Energy, US Strategic Command, and US Space Command. The Group also works in close coordination with the HQ AFSPC Directorate of Operations to procure and develop command resources, policy and guidance. The Group includes squadrons at Schriever AFB CO, Cheyenne Mountain AS CO, and Vandenberg AFB CA.

The operational functions and mission of the SWC are reorganizing this year into the SWC Operations Group. The Operations Group integrates air, space, and information operations to create aerospace power for US forces. The Group includes the Space Tactical School, the Space Aggressor Squadron, and the Aerospace Fusion Center.

The SWC is Air Force Space Command's lead to fully advance Aerospace warfighting by assessing future innovation, developing doctrine and tactics, conducting analysis and simulation, training warfighters, and testing missile and aerospace systems. Fully integrating the warrior and space at the Air Force's leading edge is an Air Force Space Command priority. In the SWC budget office we take great pride in surmounting the challenges faced in securing the resources needed to fund the SWCs unique operations.